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(54) Title: TELOMERE REPEAT BINDING FACTOR AND DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC USE THEREOF

#### (57) Abstract

The present invention relates to a nucleotide sequence encoding a telomeric protein which binds a repeat region of telomeric sequences. and to the protein encoded thereby. Also included within the invention are expression vectors for the production of the telomeric protein and host cells transformed with the nucleotide sequence. In addition, antibodies, probes and antagonists specific for the telomeric protein are contemplated. Methods of identifying antagonists of the telomeric protein, diagnostic methods of identifying the telomeric protein in a sample, and therapeutic uses of the telomeric protein, particularly in the treatment of aging and cancer, are also contemplated.

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